REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 31, 40, 61 and 70 have been amended. Claims 1-90 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Section 102(b) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stoevhase (U.S. Patent 5,805,924) (hereinafter, "Stoevhase"). Applicant traverses this rejection and submits that claims 1-90 as amended are not anticipated by Stoevhase, for at least the reasons given below.

With respect to claim 1, Stoevhase fails to teach all of the limitations of Applicant's claim. Specifically, Stoevhase fails to teach a host system receiving from a fabric coupled to the host system an event indicating a fabric state change for one or more host adapter ports of the host system; and the host system dynamically changing the host system's fabric device configuration in response to receiving the event, where the host system dynamically changing its fabric device configuration comprises the host system bringing online or taking offline one or more fabric devices for the one or more host adapter ports for the host system.

Applicant notes that claim 1 recites various actions that are taken <u>by a host system with respect to a fabric to which the host system is coupled</u>. By contrast, the disclosures of Stoevhase operate <u>solely within a fabric</u>, and have nothing to do with altering a configuration of a host system coupled to a fabric. Specifically, the teachings of Stoevhase concern distribution of service parameters among switches included within a fabric as well as partitioning of address ports within the fabric (col. 1, lines 8-12). Applicant notes that at col. 4, lines 20-25 and at col. 29, lines 40-45, Stoevhase notes that a fabric element (e.g., fabric element 132 of FIG. 14) may include F_ports that may be coupled to a device other than a fabric element, such as a "computer or peripheral" that

may be coupled to the fabric. However, Stoevhase offers no further discussion of any aspect of the behavior of a host system that may be coupled to the fabric, such as may occur in response to a fabric state change event as recited in claim 1.

More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the distribution of service parameters (DSP) request of Stoevhase corresponds to an event indicating a fabric state change. . Irrespective of the correctness of this assertion, Stoevhase does not in any way teach or suggest that a DSP request is received by a host system coupled to a fabric, as required by claim 1. In fact, Stoevhase specifically teaches that DSP requests are not conveyed to devices attached to fabric elements, but instead are exchanged among fabric elements themselves, which is entirely inconsistent with claim 1.

That is, Stoevhase's discussion of DSP request processing clearly indicates that DSP requests are generated by a given fabric element for each of its associated E_ports (col. 5, lines 1-11; col. 6, lines 1-29; col. 20, lines 28-55; FIG. 11, block 100). However, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 14 and described at col. 4, lines 4-19 and col. 29, lines 40-45, E_ports are specifically provided for coupling fabric elements for one another, while F_ports are provided for coupling fabric elements to other devices external to the fabric. Stoevhase provides no suggestion whatsoever for conveying a DSP request to a device external to a fabric.

Moreover, Stoevhase clearly states that the purpose of the DSP request is to reconcile service parameters among fabric elements themselves (col. 2, lines 13-41). In view of this object, it is unclear from Stoevhase's disclosure how the DSP request, as a technique for maintaining service parameter consistency within the elements comprising a fabric, would in any way apply to those external devices or systems coupled to the fabric. As argued above, Stoevhase discloses that a recipient of a DSP request generated by a fabric element is not a host system, but rather another fabric element. By extension, the activity that occurs in response to the DSP request is not changing the host system's fabric device configuration, as required by claim 1, but rather changing the service parameters of the fabric element (FIG. 11, blocks 101-105; col. 20, lines 28-55).

As Stoevhase clearly fails to teach all of the limitations of claim 1, Stoevhase cannot be said to anticipate claim 1. For at least the reasons given above, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 1 is not supported by the cited art. The same is true in regard to the rejection of independent claims 31 and 61 that recite limitations similar to claim 1. Additionally, Applicant notes that the rejection of numerous ones of the dependent claims is further unsupported by the cited art. However, since the rejection has been shown to be unsupported in regard to the independent claims, further discussion of the dependent claims is unnecessary at this time.
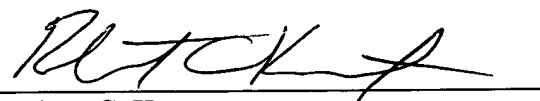
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-83600/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Petition for Extension of Time

☐ Notice of Change of Address

☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: __July 17, 2006__